

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**August 8-9, 2005**

**Monday, August 8**

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Rep. Walker, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, and Mrs. Williams

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Staton called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Ron Ingle, President of Coastal Carolina University. Dr. Ingle welcomed members and guests to the campus and outlined the University's vision for the future with particular emphasis on the University's responsibility to students and educators working in schools along the I-95 corridor.

Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Gil Hunt, Dean of the Spadoni College of Education at Coastal Carolina.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the June 13 meeting were approved as distributed.

Middle Grades Profile: Dr. Horne presented the profile of students in the middle grades, outlining issues documented in the draft materials distributed to members prior to the meeting. He focused on changes in student's physical, social and emotional development and how these manifest themselves in the contexts of home, peer and school relationships. He provided information on the organization of schools and school performance for middle schools.

Members questioned Dr. Horne about the nature of the achievement gaps in other states, the pupil-teacher ratios, teacher preparation and placement and instructional methods.

Dr. Horne introduced Dr. William Sullivan, Richland County School District Two and Dr. Baron Holmes, S. C. Budget and Control Board. Dr. Sullivan discussed the growing disconnect between the culture of schools and students, particularly those students in high poverty settings. He attributed differences to economic status of students. He explained the need for psychological, as well as physical, safety so that the students can explore, engage in challenging activities and continue their development. He is concerned that too many students are not engaged with their families, with their peers or with their schools. These are the students that we seem to lose in the system.

Dr. Holmes expressed concerns that schools are not changing the ways in which students are taught, confirming Dr. Sullivan's comments about engagement. He reviewed the data and progress through the Carnegie Middle Grades project and recommended an instructional revolution.

Members questioned the two speakers about strategies and solutions. Dr. Holmes suggested that we need to address teacher compensation, create a Peace Corps-type cadre of educators to work in the most challenging settings. Dr. Sullivan indicated that we need to find ways to deepen relationships between students and teachers around interesting content.

High School Interviews: Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Frank Brown, *MarketSearch*. Dr. Brown had conducted a series of interviews with at-risk students, high school dropouts, and adult education students to understand why the reasons that traditional school programs failed them. The interviews were quite revealing and summary documents were included in meeting materials.

Interestingly, students are interested in completing their schooling and acknowledged their responsibility for the gap between aspiration and completion.

High School Redesign Commission: Ms. Cindy McIntee (SERVE) and Dr. Nancy Sargent (SDE) presented materials on the purpose, membership and work of the High School Redesign Commission. The Commission, established by Superintendent Tenenbaum, is focusing on structural and programmatic changes to address concerns with rigor and relevance of the curriculum and relationships between students and caring adults. The Commission is to report at the end of the calendar year.

## **Tuesday, August 9**

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Rep. Walker, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, and Mrs. Williams

Personnel Matter: The EOC convened and entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The EOC returned from Executive Session. Mr. Martin moved that Dr. Anderson's salary be increased by 4 percent, the increase made for all state employees. The motion passed.

Science Standards: Senator Fair outlined concerns with the high school biology standards and his intent to address the State Board of Education. He indicated that his interest is not to impose a belief system but to ensure that the controversy over evolution and intelligent design is addressed in a fair manner. The EOC is to consider approval of the standards at its October meeting.

Five Year Longitudinal Data: Mr. Potter reviewed the five-year matched student data of students tested in grade 3 in 2000 through [expected] grade 7 in 2004. The presentation explored issues of mobility, retention, and performance. Members are interested in these as well as the identification of districts and/or schools who are maintaining high performance. As in the discussions regarding middle and high school performance, members raised questions about teacher pre- and in-service.

### **EOC Mission:**

Members discussed the following questions:

- Is the EOC fulfilling its mission?
- What are the EOC's responsibilities to the system?
- What are member responsibilities to the EOC mission?
- How does the EOC relate to other public bodies?
- What are the implications of the mission in the current environment?

### **Objectives for 2005-2006:**

EOC members identified a number of objectives for 2005-2006 and asked the staff to craft language and propose priorities. The objectives are to be reviewed for action at the October 2005 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 .p.m.